

Message Text

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61

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 /096 W

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R 011604Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0014

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 1937

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UV, IS

SUBJ: UPPER VOLTA AND ISRAEL

REF: STATE 176550

1. WHEN I DELIVERED AIDE MEMOIRE TRANSMITTED REFTEL ON AUGUST 1 TO SEC GEN FOREIGN OFFICE DOMINIQUE SISO, HE EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS OAU SUMMIT DISCUSSION ON ISRAELI SUSPENSION ISSUE. HE SAID THAT INITIATIVE FOR AMENDMENTS APPARENTLY CAME FROM EGYPT AND, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW HOW VARIOUS AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAD VOTED, HE EXPECTED THAT UPPER VOLTA HAD VOTED WITH EGYPT.

2. SISO THEN REMARKED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION IN UPPER VOLTA TO THE BREAKING OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, ESPECIALLY AMONG CHRISTIANS, WHO REPRESENT THE EDUCATED ELITE AND WHO RESENTED THE PRESSURES BEING EXERTED BY MOSLEM STATES. HE COMMENTED THAT GOUV HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH ISRAELI TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND THAT IT WAS WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE, AND IN EXPECTATION OF MASSIVE FINANCIAL HELP FROM WEALTHY ARAB STATES, THAT GOUV HAD FINALLY DECIDED TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. IN SPITE
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OF SEVERAL VOLTAN MISSIONS SENT TO ARAB STATES, HWOEVER,

ARAB ASSISTANCE HAD REMAINED NEGLIGIBLE AND MANY GOUV OFFICIALS WERE NOW ADVOCATING A REAPPRAISAL OF UPPER VOLTA'S POLICY VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES.

3. COMMENT: ISSO IS HIMSELF A CHRISTIAN AND SITUATION DESCRIBED ABOVE MAY REPRESENT HIS PERSONAL OPINION RATHER THAN A REAL TREND IN GOUV CIRCLES. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, HEARD SIMILAR REMARKS FROM OTHER GOUV OFFICIALS. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THAT UPPER VOLTA WOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN DESERTING THE ARAB CAUSE UNLESS THERE IS A GENERAL TREND IN THIS DIRECTION AMONG AFRICAN STATES SOUTH OF THE SAHARA.
GRAHAM

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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